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Singing and dancing – for toddlers, preschoolers, and their adult guests. Snacks, too!

**Workweek Wind-Down**  
6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Leave work behind before welcoming Shabbat. Relax with a glass of red or white – or sparkling soda.

**Shabbat Across America**  
Don't miss this annual nationwide event!  
Kabbalat Shabbat Service  
6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Kosher Shabbat Dinner**  
7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Call to reserve your spot!  
Adults \$25, children 6-12 \$10,  
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# Kids mourn their skater pal

Teen died after chasing gang members in park

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

Xaverian HS in Bay Ridge collapsed just after midnight on March 8 near Bartel Pritchard Square after he and his pals inside the park in a fistfight sparked by name-calling, friends said.

Paramedics transported the Henry Street adolescent to New Methodist Hospital, where he died Saturday morning.

The death stunned friends of the shaggy-haired, light-spirited teen who aspired to become a graphic designer.

Abdullah, 17, a senior at

"It's not right. He was too young to go," said one acquaintance, who stood next to a simple and stark headstone. "He was a good kid." [MARCH 19, 2009]

— Matt J. 2009 R.I.P.

"I just keep thinking if I had been here, things might have been different."

A parent of one of Abdullah's friends was also shocked by the news.

"It all happened so fast. He was at my house at 8 p.m. and now he's gone," he said.

The mother of another friend of Abdullah was not surprised.

"People who live near the circle at the south-west corner of Prospect Park

have long complained about kids hanging out in the area well after dark — as well as occasional fights and incidents involving children of under-aged drinking."

The cause of Abdullah's death has yet been determined — though friends said he suffered from a heart attack.

Cops charged Angelo Bracco, 42, Eric Bracco, 18, Christian Bracco, 16, and Benjamin Bracco, 14, with second-degree assault.

— with Heather Holland



Friends of skateboarder Sharif Abdullah, who died early on Sunday morning near Bartel Pritchard Square, mourned his loss.

## This cop sees it all go down on Union

### 78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Two men have been arrested for robbing a man's Union Square apartment while a cop was watching — on March 3, police reported.

The officer said he saw one man running the building between Eighth and Ninth Avenues, with a box containing three books while the other stood lookout around 11:25 a.m.

The two defendants claimed they were "robbers." "We didn't do anything wrong," one said.

The other was less sure: "I didn't do anything wrong," he said, according to police.

**The off-the-checks**  
A burglar bushed into a Berkeley Place apartment on March 4, stealing \$5,450 in jewelry and electronics.

The victim, between Seven and Eighth avenues, was returned home later when she noticed her Apartment had a hole in a window, and about 15 pieces of jewelry and about 150 CDs.

A neighbor told cops that a man with something — the victim doesn't know what — cutting both checkbooks March 7.

The man was on Flatbush Avenue at Park Place at around 4:15 p.m. when he was assaulted, police said.

The victim said he was returning from a nightime party for his daughter — who knew only seven of the 14 guests.

The lady was on the corner of Sixth and Flatbush Bergen at around 12:05 a.m. when she offered the man a smoke, cops said.

Instead of accepting it, he grabbed the man from behind and fled Flushing Avenue, taking a handbag that included a cigarette, various prescriptions and about \$100.

**Dress 'n' ditch**  
A burglar was stolen from his Presidet Street apartment on Wadsworth Avenue at around 4:30 p.m., she noticed her wallet, with \$250 inside, was gone.

The victim put her bag on the ground while shopping at the thrift shop, which is located on Wadsworth Avenue between Fourth and Fifth Streets.

The burglar took her bag on the street, then went to a nearby ATM, where gun violence was taken to Kings County Hospital for injuries sustained in the two-plus hour.

**Rooftop heist**  
An amateur burglar was seen on a rooftop between Hoyt and Bond Streets at around 11:30 p.m. on March 7.

Hitting two offices on the 10th floor and a burglar stole 15 computers, including one worth more than \$1,200, a projector, and other equipment.

There are no security cameras inside the building, between Hoyt and Bond Streets at around 8:30 a.m. on the suspect approached the 11-story structure at around 2 a.m.

Hitting two offices on the 11th floor and the burglar stole 15 computers, including one worth more than \$1,200, a projector, and other equipment.

Police said that when the off-duty cop arrived at the scene, he was hit in the head, and the burglar fled.

The 22-year-old worker was making a delivery on Warren Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets at around 11:30 p.m. when the burglar snatched the package and displayed the blades.

That was enough to secure the poor guy's \$300 bike, the police report said.

**Twofers**  
A burglar who broke into two Prospect Place apartments on March 6, nabbing \$210 worth of jewels and electronics, was caught in a pre-snap using a state benefit card.

In addition, the crime was captured by a store security camera.

**Discrepancy station**  
A man who had been cornered in a string of recent robberies tried to escape from police by jumping out of a Schermerhorn Street motel's second-floor window.

The robbing burglar had gotten away, but he left ample evidence behind. After stealing the items, the burglar fled in a pre-snap using a state benefit card.

The thief broke in after 9:15 p.m. when he was captured by a store security camera.

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(718) 834-9350

*The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings*

March 14, 2009

# Living the dream?

*Want to open your own place? Might want to think again*

By Ben Muessig

*The Brooklyn Paper*

**A**s Caroline Bell served shot after shot of espresso in her beloved Greenpoint coffee shop Cafe Grumpy, she often wonders one thing: If she knew then what she knows now, would she have given up her restaurant job to open her own cafe?

"I always thought it would be really cool to have my own coffee shop, but now I don't think that the romanticized image of it is true," said Bell, who opened the Masonic Art espresso coffeehouse in 2005. "If I had known it would have been this hard — if I had known the struggles we would have faced — I probably wouldn't have started it."

Local espresso entrepreneurs and beer-slinging dreamers from Brooklyn's bakers and self-taught chefs, Brooklyn is filled with people who gave up the humdrum lives to live the dreams.

But for many, the dream becomes a reality once the bills start piling up, the coffee starts tasting weirdly sour. And in today's economic climate, it wears off pretty quickly.

From the start, it wasn't easy for the



She works hard for the money: (Above) Caroline Bell, owner of Cafe Grumpy in Greenpoint, learned quickly that the romance of opening your own coffee shop fades quickly. (At right) Jamey Hamm, owner of Roots Cafe, worked 120-hour weeks when he opened in December.

## Grumpy expands

The South Slope is about to get grumper. Espresso entrepreneur Caroline Bell told *The Brooklyn Paper* that she will open a branch of her popular Greenpoint coffeehouse at Greenpoint and Second Avenue between 11th and 12th streets.

"We're excited because it's really close to our apartment," said Bell, whose original joint is considered a shrine by java junkies.

It's also our first location on a main street near a subway with lots of foot traffic.

Seventh Avenue is bustling, but it has proven to be a dead zone for coffee-shops, with both Cafe Eleven and the Beans & Grains closing last year.

Bell is optimistic.

"Coffee shops close when they take up a lot of retail space," she said. "This is going to be a good kind of place."

— Ben Muessig

## Here's some good advice

Living the dream isn't easy. Opening a coffee shop, bar or restaurant can be a dream come true — or a bust — not to mention costly. But if you're going to persist in opening your own place, here's some pointers from Brooklyn entrepreneurs who have already tried the tumultuous path:

• **Get the right partners:** "It's really important that you have partners that are as committed to you as you are," said Michael Giancola, owner of Poliafio's in Park Slope. "That way, even when you disagree on things, you can manage to find a balance in the center. If people are going to have partners, find people who are sure you can really work with."

• **Get the right staff:** "I didn't realize how important it was to have great employees," said Alessandra Kammerer of the Oak and the Iris Cafe in Kensington. "If you don't find the right people, they come and go, and they don't care much about the business. That was the hardest thing for us — finding the right people who you can trust and work well."

• **Get the right bank:** "Find a small local bank with a banker that you can talk to and have one relationship with," said Sarah Nahmias of the now-defunct Longchyle in Windsor Terrace. "Really be careful with the bank that you involve yourself with so you don't turn out with completely inflexible terms."



Renato Poliafio of Baked.

poliafio@brooklynpaper.com

Photo by Ben Muessig



6 AWP

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March 14, 2009



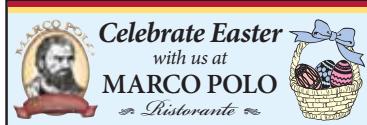
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# WHERE TO GO

**EDITORS' PICKS**TUESDAY  
March 17**TUESDAY**

March 17

**De-planeted**

Pluto's ignominious demotion by a cabal of scientists less than two years ago roused indignation across the solar system, but Neil deGrasse Tyson, the People Magazine-anointed "Sexiest Astrophysicist Alive," believes America's favorite hobby still has a place in the reshuffled cosmos. Why wait for Tyson to be on Colbert? Catch him now!

8 pm. Secret Science Club with Neil deGrasse Tyson at the Bell House (149 Metropolitan Avenue between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, 718-643-6570, \$3).

8 pm. "Acoustically Re-lated": Brooklyn Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave. at Sterling Place in Park Slope, 718-230-0286, \$10).

9 pm. "Slapshot": The creative geniuses who came up with the F. Martiniella del on Court Street in Downtown (think: the only meat they sell is Boar's Head) want you to enjoy a full day of food and fun — plus cooking demonstrations — to formally open their month's old sandwich shop. The place is excellent — and so are the freebies today!

10 am-5 pm. F. Martiniella (119 Court St. at State Street in Downtown, 718-856-6009).

WEDNESDAY  
March 18**WEDNESDAY**

March 18

**Slope blues**

The gravel-voiced Park Slope blues guitarist who once let a young Bob Dylan crash on his couch playing tonight at Southpaw. Danny Kalb, who released his memoir, "I'm Going to Live the Life I Sing About," late last year, was a founding member of the Blues Project in the 1960s and has a prolific career that includes back to some sessions with John Lee Hooker in the 1950s.

8 pm. "Secret Science Club with Neil deGrasse Tyson at the Bell House (149 Metropolitan Avenue between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, 718-643-6570, \$3).

8 pm. "Food fest": The creative geniuses who came up with the F. Martiniella del on Court Street in Downtown (think: the only meat they sell is Boar's Head) want you to enjoy a full day of food and fun — plus cooking demonstrations — to formally open their month's old sandwich shop. The place is excellent — and so are the freebies today!

10 am-5 pm. F. Martiniella (119 Court St. at State Street in Downtown, 718-856-6009).

THURSDAY  
March 19**THURSDAY**

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FRIDAY  
March 20**FRIDAY**

March 20

**Own Newman**

It's a good day to kick off BAM's seemingly twice-yearly Paul Newman retrospective (can you blame them? The man is amazing). Anyway, today, catch the true blue Jew in "Long Hot Summer." But if you want a real thrill, wait until next night to catch Newman in the greatest sports movie of all time, "Slapshot."

2, 4:30, 6:50 and 9:30 pm. "Long Hot Summer," \$11 ("Slapshot"), a March 21 at 4:30, 7 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. at St. Felix Place in Fort Greene, 718-636-4100).

1 pm. Reading by Michael D'Antonio and Peter O'Malley, whose historical book "Never Forget: Brooklyn's Greatest Sports Figures" (2008) will be exonered by his son, Peter, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael D'Antonio ("Never Forget: Blue"). Want to really clear the O'Malley name? Bring the Dodgers back to Brooklyn, baby!

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March 14, 2009

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AWP 7



Maria Boeing cleans up at the Root Hill Cafe, another coffee shop whose owners work long hours to live their dream.

## DREAM...

**Continued from page 5** lowed him to open his own business and has since a web designer to open the Red Hook eatery.

"You have to really love it or you are doomed to fail," Pollio said. "It's all about your life. You kind of lose your free time because your mind is always on work."

Rabkin, 31, owner of the Goat, which has Avenue pub ears less than half as much as he did when he worked as an attorney and campaign consultant.

"There is no way that I can make as much money in a small business as you can as a worker," he said, pointing to himself in New York City, "he said.

"You can't even come home," he said. "That said, Rabkin and the others will fight to continue living the dream. But for some Brooklynites, the sacrifices were too great.

Telluride producer Sara Nahas opened the Windsor Terrace coffeehouse Lone-lyville in 2005 in hopes of finding a more relaxing place to work. She had started her Prospect Park Southwestern shop last year when it had done just the opposite.

"I like to run the shop, but I'm just running out of profit off of it to live," she said.

## DINING

**Baked** 1859 Van Brunt St., between Wolcott and Dikeman Streets [Red Hook] (718) 222-0345. **Cafe Gourmand** 1197 Fourth Ave., between Bergen Street and Marks Ave. [Park Slope] (718) 244-0001. **Ortodox** 1500 Washington Ave., between Pacific and Fourth Streets [Williamsburg] (718) 422-0026. **Root Hill Cafe** 262 Court Ave., at Carroll Street [Park Slope] (718) 431-0100. **The Root** 359A Fifth Ave., between 18th and 19th Streets [Brooklyn Heights] (205) 244-2149.

"I went through all of my college years at coffee shops and I always loved coffee shops," said Kamenica. "I was the world and the first thing I did whenever I went somewhere was find a coffee shop."

The enterprising Nahas has been working her free time between her part-time job and her in her Fort Hamilton Parkway car.

In the future, she hopes to dedicate herself entirely to the newly opened coffee shop.

"I'd like to just run the shop, but I'm just making enough profit off of it to live," she said.

# 'Rent' comes due

*High school production is cleaned up for kids*

By Ben Muesig  
The Brooklyn Paper

**R**ent" just got redacted. Some of Bay Ridge's youngest actors will be the first Broadway troupe to perform Jonathan Larson's rock opera "Rent" — but they'll be staging a tame version of the controversial Broadway play.

Students at Fort Hamilton HS on Shore Road are rehearsing "Rent: The School Edition," which eliminates dirty words and sexually graphic scenes but retains nearly the sex song "Contact" from the Tony Award-winning drama about homosexuality, AIDS, and bohemian life in the East Village in the 1990s.

But just because this "Rent" is cleaner doesn't mean it's been censored, claimed director William Conroy.

"The harsher and more colorful language is removed and the more sexually visual songs are removed, but the relationships do not change and the issues do not change," he said.

Even though all of the f-words and s-words have been cut from the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, the "f-word" becomes "very" in many cases — Fort Hamilton students won't be shying away from the play's language.

Singer Jennifer Arias will play a go-go dancer with HIV, soprano Tyler Van Brussel will play a gay anatomy professor with AIDS and triple threat actress Mark Diaz will play a transvestite who dies of the disease.

The young actors say they are ready to deal with the adult themes on stage — because they are already



No day but today: Students at Fort Hamilton HS in Bay Ridge will be putting on the borough's first rendition of the musical "Rent" — but a curse-free version.

## 'Rent' — clean or dirty

You can't swear in high school — and in most cases you can't swear on a high school stage. So here are some differences between the Tony Award-winning Broadway show and the student theater version:

Song	Original	School edition	Reason for change
"Maureen Tango"	"...it's weird, I—ing weird..."	"...this is weird, very weird..."	All f-words and s-words were nixed.
"La Vie Boheme"	"...faggots, lezzies, dykes..."	"...homos, lesbians..."	Slurs weren't deemed necessary to song's context.
"Contact"	"...sticky-licky-tricky-tick-le-steamy-creamy-stroking-soaking..."	Song eliminated	All graphic descriptions of sex and drug use were eliminated.

dealing with them in real life. "Homosexuality and AIDS are in the world, so if it's out there, we should be talking about it," said Diaz. "These things need to be accepted. It's important that we discuss them."

Couler said he chose "Rent"

— which is loosely based on Puccini's opera "La Bohème" — not only because his students can relate to it, but because they were

already familiar with the show or

its 2005 film adap-

tation.

"Did we choose the show here to create controversy? No. We chose it because it's popular with our students. They love the music, they love the characters, and they love the play," he said.

But just because the students love the play, doesn't necessarily mean that their parents feel the same way.

Auditions for "Rent: The School Edition" drew about 125 students at Fort Hamilton HS (8301 Shore Rd.), between 15th and 16th Streets in Bay Ridge, on April 29, May 1, 2:30 pm; May 2, 2 pm and 7:30 pm; May 3, 7:30 pm.

"When my mom found out that I wanted to be Joanne, she asked me if I was sure that I wanted to play a character that is a lesbian and transgender," said Sophie Kornreich, 16, of Fort Hamilton's Drama Club.

"She thought people might say I was a lesbian just because I was playing the character," she said.

But actors in the cast of 40 claim they aren't concerned about the show carrying a stigma — especially because it has already sparked more excitement than last year's Holden's halloways than last year's resolution of "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

"There's so much talk about us being the new 'Rent' of Brooklyn," said senior Anna Kornreich, president of Fort Hamilton's Drama Club. "All of my friends — even the ones that go other schools — are asking me how they can get tickets."

ing the story came out," said the production's director Jeff Samaha.

Yet Tadros and Samaha are quick to add that a bigger scale and budget doesn't have to mean higher ticket prices. At \$25 a ticket, the show will cost about \$125 ticket at the production in Manhattan, which actually closes for good on April 22.

"We do things on a big scale," said Tadros. "The Producers is a 12-city tour, but it's a lot of cheaply costing, the effects are elaborate, and the cast is large," said the production's executive producer Karen Tadros. "We do things on a big scale."

Big and elaborate in this case, the stage set designed and built from Virginia is designed for 200 people and includes a full orchestra.

"The sets are very elaborate

in this production they are al-

most as integral as the script in mak-

ing the story come out," said the production's director Jeff Samaha.

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The Producers is set to open at Poly Prep Country Day School (9216

Seventh Ave., between 92nd and 93rd streets in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn), on April 29, May 1, 2, 28. Tickets are \$25. For info and tickets, visit [jeffsamaha.com/index1.htm](http://jeffsamaha.com/index1.htm)

— Dustin Seplow

# Red White & Bubbly

211 Fifth Avenue (between Union & President)  
Park Slope (718) 636-9463 [www.redwhiteandbubbly.com](http://www.redwhiteandbubbly.com)  
Open Mon-Sat: 10am-10pm, Sun: 12pm-8pm

## MARCH RECOMMENDATIONS



These are Darrin's Best Buys for March!



**Clos De L'Abbe Dubois Rose, by Clos de l'Abbe Dubois**

Wish is was Spring and you were in Provence! **\$9.95**  
A chilled glass of this charmer will almost take you back to the days of the charcuterie, ham, cold cuts and salads or a simple sandwich, this delicious is a hint of the warm climate it comes from. What a lovely bouquet!



**Rose Row Sauvignon Blanc, by Marie Niel Durst**

We were absolutely delighted to discover this range of wines from the Southwest of France: delicious, well-balanced and priced so well!! This sauvignon is dry and crisp with mouth watering ripe pear and apple flavors. This is a great "food wine"!



**Sur Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon, by Bodega Sur**

Argentina brings us another winner! Our friend Michael Vail lives in Argentina and finds some of our best tasting Best Buy for us! Here is a blend of Argentina's two most important grapes, both originally from Bordeaux, making a wine that is a terrific match with steaks, burgers, roasts, stews, pastas, pizza and a full flavored cheeses. Smooth, rich and full bodied!



**Oxford Landing Shiraz, by Oxford Landing Estates**

Everybody seems to love a good Shiraz! Flavors of ripe blackberries and hint of cracked peppercorns... all that and a lot more will be going on in your glass when you open a bottle of this best selling Shiraz. Big and bold, yet not hot or heavy, this one is just right on a chilly night!

Buy Darrin's Best Buys 4 Pack and Save 10% **\$36.31**



Darrin's March Discovery Wines!



**Wilfred Rousse Chignon Les Puis, by Wilfred Rousse**

**\$18.95**



**Te Awa Left Field Chardonnay, by Te Awa Winery**

**\$15.95**



**Pama Pomegranate liqueur, by Pama Spirits Co.**

**\$21.95**



**March Cellar Selection**



**Gary Farrell Pinot Noir RN River, by Gary Farrell**

**\$39.95**

Come in today for our

# Wines of the Week

CHOOSE THREE — SAVE 10%

CHOOSE SIX — SAVE 15%

Selection changes every Friday

Maimonides Good Health Message #3

## Interesting reading for people under 50.

## Must reading for people over 50.

Maimonides Medical Center is pleased to provide colorectal screening and treatment to all Brooklyn residents, regardless of their ability to pay.

Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, our new Endoscopy Center provides quality patient care and gives high priority to your comfort when you visit.

Call (718) 283-7352 for an appointment or more details.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COLORECTAL CANCER:

#### 1. WHAT IS COLORECTAL CANCER?

Colon and rectal cancer share many features and are often referred to as colorectal cancer, a disease in which cells in the colon or rectum become abnormal. Most of these cancers begin as abnormal tissue growths or polyps. Removing a polyp early may prevent it from becoming cancerous.

#### 2. WHO IS AT RISK OF DEVELOPING COLORECTAL CANCER?

Colorectal cancer occurs in men and women of all racial and ethnic groups. People who are age 50 or older have the greatest risk of developing the disease. Also at risk are those with a family history of colorectal cancer or polyps, and those who suffer from certain diseases of the intestines, including ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. A person who has already had colorectal cancer is at increased risk of developing the disease a second time.

#### 3. WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COLORECTAL CANCER?

In the early stages, colorectal cancer tends to be slow-growing and usually develops with few, if any, symptoms. Eventual symptoms can include blood in the stool; a change in bowel habits; stools that are narrower than usual; or unexplained stomach discomfort, frequent gas, pains or indigestion.

#### 4. WHAT IS A COLONOSCOPY?

A colonoscopy is a painless, outpatient procedure that enables a doctor to examine the entire lining of the large intestine with a flexible instrument called a colonoscope. If any polyps are found, they can be removed during the procedure. The whole procedure usually takes less than 25 minutes.

#### 5. WHY IS GETTING A COLONOSCOPY SO IMPORTANT?

Colorectal cancer screening can detect the early stages of cancer. Studies have shown that the removal of precancerous polyps during a colonoscopy reduces both cancer incidence and mortality.

#### 6. HOW OFTEN SHOULD I GET SCREENED AND IS THE PROCEDURE COVERED BY INSURANCE?

All men and women 50 and older should have a colonoscopy every 10 years. Although insurance coverage varies, most plans help pay for screening tests for people over 50.



**Maimonides**  
Medical Center  
Passionate about medicine.  
Compassionate about people.

For more information, visit [www.maimonidesmed.org](http://www.maimonidesmed.org).  
To find the right doctor for you, call (888) MMC-DOCS (662-3627).

Go out  
in your  
boro  
tonight  
<http://>

For more  
Brooklyn Nightlife  
options, see  
our listings at  
BrooklynPaper.com/  
Nightlife



Pileup: Casiokids play the Bell House on March 16.

### 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6  
Church (919) Hebrew on Avenue  
at Church Avenue in Flat-  
bush, (718) 284-5140.

**THEATER**

**TALK: "CHORUS LIVING EMPA-  
THY":** Jane Johnson Lewis

speaks about empathy and  
theater. 7 p.m. Sat., March 14.

**BROOKLYN SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL  
CULTURE: "THE CHORUS LINE":** West  
at Second Street in Brook-  
lyn Heights, (718) 297-2792,

www.bsc.org.

**TALK, COVERING THE WAR  
IN GAZA: EYES OPEN:** Diane N. Burkett

speaks. Brunch is served.

Reception follows. 11 a.m.

**Congregation Beth Shalom:** 100 St.

at Clark Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 230-1000.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE:** the annual Park Slope

mass parade. 1 p.m. Sat., March 14.

**READING: "BROOKLYN  
NOTES":** Michael McLoughlin and select

contributors to the popular

sheepdog blog. Free. 5 p.m.

Lafayette Avenue in Prospect

Hills, (718) 500-5000,

www.brooklynnotes.org.

**FILM, "DAY OF WRATH":** 2 p.m.

Sat., March 14.

**READING: "BROOKLYN  
NOTES":** Michael McLoughlin and select

contributors to the popular

sheepdog blog. Free. 5 p.m.

Lafayette Avenue in Prospect

Hills, (718) 500-5000,

www.brooklynnotes.org.

**MON, MARCH 16**

**READING: TOBY BARLOW  
AND JEFFREY HORN:** Authors of "Sharp Teeth,"

"Beautiful Children,"

Free. 7 p.m. Mon., March 16.

**Court Street between Pacific**

and Franklin Streets in

DUMBO, (718) 230-1000.

**THEATER, "TRUTH IS 24/7":** 7 p.m.

Brick Theater, (516) 432-

111. See Friday, March 13.

**ART OPENING: "HEROES  
AND VILLAINS":** Artwork by

various artists. Free. 6 p.m.

St. Ann's Warehouse, (718)

240 Bowery, (718) 230-2700.

**FILM, "THE INCIDENT":** \$1.

7 p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave., near St. Felix

Street in Fort Greene, (718)

284-3100, www.bam.org.

**MON, MARCH 16**

**READING: HANNAH  
WATSON: "LITTLE POETRY**

collection," "Circles."

Free. 7 p.m. Mon., March 16.

**BOOKCOURT: "163 COURT**

STREET: COULD IT BE...

Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 230-5677.

**THEATER, "LA DIDONE":** Opera by Francesco Cilea.

Free. 7 p.m. Mon., March 16.

**ART OPENING: "THE PRODUC-  
ERS":** Mel Brooks' classic

musical. 6 p.m. Tues., March 17.

**ART LECTURE SERIES:** Dr. Carole M. Epers speaks

on topics such as

theology, philosophy,

and more. 7 p.m. Tues., March 17.

**THEATER, "LA DIDONE":** Opera by Francesco Cilea.

Free. 7 p.m. Wed., March 18.

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AWP 9  
MAY  
Editor of the Year

## OUR OPINION

# Stop DiBrenza now

**I**s there anything more unsightly than a politician with his hands in the public till?

The latest offender is former City Councilman Steve DiBrenza, who served 16 years until term limits — and a subsequent effort to amend them — took him off the political payroll.

Or did it?

This week, The Brooklyn Paper learned that DiBrenza still has a cozy relationship with his former colleagues, who have been happy to lend their clout to this invisible public servant's charity — an astounding \$1.19 million over the past seven years.

The charity's principal expense? Salaries.

We don't know exactly how much went into DiBrenza's pocket because antiquated rules don't require the identification of any spending less than \$50,000. But we do know that over the years, federal tax records show that DiBrenza and his cronies have pocketed

**A scandal underscores why former City Councilman Steve DiBrenza's candidacy for his old seat is so troubling.**

hundreds of thousands of your cash.

DiBrenza, who was elected to his old seat when he was 16, has never acknowledged that he had done anything to justify the money that the Council has given him since he sees fit.

Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights), for example, gave \$15,000 for DiBrenza's campaign after DiBrenza endorsed him for Congress in 2006.

Yassky told The Brooklyn Paper that this out-of-district donation to DiBrenza's campaign was not a kickback or a quid-pro-quo, but voters will certainly raise their eyebrows.

That appearance of impropriety is the core of why DiBrenza's candidacy in the one of the most notorious districts in the city is so troubling.

DiBrenza's group, the Brooklyn Corporation of Community Sports Leagues and Anti-Graffiti Program, is almost always shuttered. Worse, no one other than DiBrenza would confirm that the group does what DiBrenza says it does.

The executive director of the schools that supposedly benefited from DiBrenza's largesse told The Brooklyn Paper

he hasn't seen the former councilman in years and "I really don't know if DiBrenza had done anything to justify the money that the Council has given him since he sees fit."

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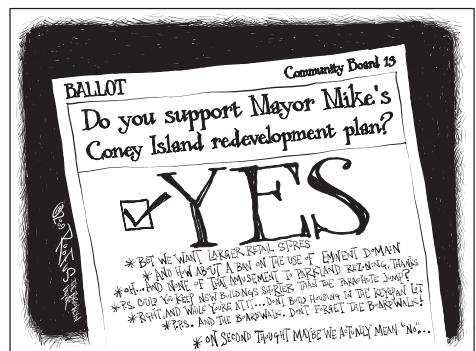
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## ALL DRAWN OUT



## LETTERS

# Steve? Please! Lander will never pander

To the editor:

Thank you for your article on the candidates furnished by the Windsor Terrace Alliance on Feb. 26 ("Steve's 'ent'" March 7).

We are proud to be supporting Brad Lander for his race and believe that he was born for the job.

Brad has the most consistent record of results for our community on the issues that matter most to us: livable neighborhoods, affordable housing, public education. He has been working with us on the East Windsor Terrace, including the Coney Island Redevelopment Park Circle, dealing with 23 Castle Pl., and helping the PS 154 PTA.

At the forum, he gave the only remarks that were not boilerplate campaign rhetoric, where pre-selected results from a survey of

over 300 community residents, identifying the issues that matter most in our neighborhood, were presented.

Brad has the strongest support in Windsor Terrace, including the chairman of Community Board 15, the PS 154, and many community leaders and residents. We believe that he was the best candidate at the forum, and we encourage you to represent us in the Council.

Randy Peers, Ryan Lynch,

Channa Camins, June Reich,

Deb Capone & Ellen Hlongosta

The writers are all from Windsor Terrace. Peers is the chairman of Community Board 7

Co-opted

To the editor:

We are a part of his network, an alleged boycott of Israeli products. Michael Leventhal, like Leventhal's son, is supported through nasty doctored remarks, all of which is about as honest as it gets.

Leventhal is the "Rush Limbaugh" of Park Slope.

Terrence J. Allen,  
Prospect Hill

'Park' talk

To the editor:

Yardning Marrianna Koval's resignation from her position at the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy is the latest chapter in the history of the park plan's gestation ("Koval quits 'Park,'" and "Koval's departure," March 7).

In fact, your paper has rarely, if ever, acknowledged the role of the self-appointed apologists for Leventhal in your editorials or page one if it's accusing others of prejudice, it's kind of counterproductive to blatantly say Leventhal's own big blunder is that he's been a thorn in the side of the city and state's memorandum of understanding of this park, once built, must be self-sustaining.

To Leventhal's credit, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, which together with lawsuits, played a part in the park's construction.

Everyone is entitled to his opinion. But when an argument like Leventhal's is supported through nasty doctored remarks, all of which is about as honest as it gets.

Leventhal is the "Rush Limbaugh" of Park Slope.

Terrence J. Allen,  
Prospect Hill

'Park' talk

To the editor:

Virtually all of the Park Slope community is behind Barack Hussein Obama" (letters, Feb. 28). Aside from wondering exactly how Mr. Leventhal came by this information (we'll have a second shot, I hope), I'm curious to know if the majority of the country voted for Barack Hussein Obama, despite numerous cheap attempts to portray him as a ter-

rorist sympathizer.

If you're not a Leventhal apologist for Leventhal, then you're probably one of the early leaders of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition faced in getting former Borough President Golden and other elected officials to reluctantly accept the plan.

It's time to move on.

Michael Leventhal

'Park' talk

To the editor:

Marrianna Koval's resignation from her position at the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy is the latest chapter in the history of the park plan's gestation ("Koval quits 'Park,'" and "Koval's departure," March 7).

With \$231 million committed,

the Brooklyn Bridge Park Alliance to learn how much park maintenance and programming cost.

Terrence J. Allen, Downtown

To the editor:

When approached for the story, Michael Leventhal refused to give his opinions about President Obama's financial scheme — and Ms. Koval's advocacy of it — are the cause of the park's being "virtually dead" is utterly ridiculous.

To Leventhal's credit, the Central Park Conservancy and the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy are working together to make the park plan's vision a reality.

Terrence J. Allen, Prospect Hill

'Park' talk

To the editor:

Michael Leventhal's attack on Marrianna Koval's resignation from her position at the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy is the latest chapter in the history of the park plan's gestation ("Koval quits 'Park,'" and "Koval's departure," March 7).

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AWP 10



# The Brooklyn Paper PARENT

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

## What happens on Facebook...

**W**hen Smartmom walks down Park Slope's Seventh Avenue, she often notices — out of the corner of her eye — someone she's "friend"ed on Facebook.

While it may not be a good friend, it's probably that she calls a good friend a friend. She might not know the person from one of her kid's schools or through a mutual friend. Maybe she runs into her at the Gutterman office, or at Dr. Edna Pytlak's office.

But now she knows why more about "her friends" than ever because she's read their "25 Reasons They Like Me." Their list of favorite words and has a running sense of their daily status. She's probably not yet up to proposing to talk in person about what's been posted on Facebook. But she totally sure.

For instance, now she knows who Craig Hammerman, district manager of Community Board 6 and

one of the candidates running for Bill DeBlasio's seat in the City Council, thinks about his musical voice and his head full of information and logic; was a member of Mensa once upon a time; and loves to put socks straight out of the dryer.

She read it on Hammerman's "25 Random Things."

Smartmom also sees him in front of CoughlinCo and say,

"It's true that you periodically crave marble cake made fresh Duncan Hines mix?"

That's right, she's rude, right? Suppose some was standing nearby; a mere mention of Hammerman's Duncan Hines obsession would have him a vote.

Sometimes Smartmom sees one of her Facebook friends on the way to the park. She doesn't know where he/she is going because the "friend" posted about it; or she runs



By Louise Crawford

into people at Sweet Melissas or "Savie," and she finds herself curious how something or other turned out.

That's right, she's nosy, and rude, right? Suppose some was standing nearby; a mere mention of Hammerman's Duncan Hines obsession would have him a vote.

Sometimes Smartmom sees one of her Facebook friends on the way to the park. She doesn't know where he/she is going because the "friend" posted about it; or she runs

other's baby pictures and wedding albums.

Facebook is like a really cool yard, an artist's loft, where you're free to check out what's new and talk to anyone you want. See your friends, your friends' friends, even teachers from the Oh So Feisty One Room Schoolhouse.

For instance, Smartmom "friended" OSFO's beloved second-grade teacher and found out that she's the one writing "but wait, what's new" if it will lead to a tighter sense of community of people who share the same interests.

Then again, if it's not even a teacher, but a mom who's been teaching for 25 years, she's

now studying each other's high school class pictures.

They've seen each other's hairstyles from 1977. They've looked at each

and very unwise. Everyone knows you should keep your posts on Facebook generic and bland. You should never ever reveal anything of your self and never ever reveal anything about anyone other than a Republican.

That's because you can never tell if someone's on Facebook and who's not.

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March 14, 2009

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# The interview you are just dying to read!

**Bobby Paolillo** thought he saw it all as an army sergeant — then he got a gig at Green-Wood Cemetery. The 50-year-old chief of security works hard to make sure nearly naked sunbathers, totally naked porn stars and witchcraft practitioners — who are all dying to get into the 171-year-old cemetery — don't disturb the iconic graveyard. We first

## CHECKIN' IN WITH...

**Ben Muessig:** Why does Green-Wood Cemetery need security? What's the problem?

**Bobby Paolillo:** Green-Wood is open to the public, which means there are people having access to it. We're there to do the same thing as the police department, because the police didn't have the manpower or the resources or a law enforcement problem at it. We prevent vandalism and theft. We help out when there are car accidents or when people get lost or sick in the cemetery.

**BM:** How do you stop vandalism and theft?

**BP:** That's what we do by our presence. We try to deter

things by stopping everybody who comes into the cemetery by making them a couple of questions.

**BM:** Like what? "Pardon me sir, why are you carrying that shovel?"

**BP:** No, no. We don't really have a shovel. It's a vandalism problem or a law enforcement problem at it. We stop on top of things. We have 24-hour patrol, we have K-9 patrol. We have security that's here. Altogether, we try to prevent anything bad from happening in the cemetery.

**BM:** So you've never seen someone come in with a shovel?

**BP:** Not once. I've been here a year and a half and I've never seen that.

**BM:** Other than visitors for funerals and mourners, who else comes to the cemetery?

**BP:** You know, we have it in the cemetery. We have his lovers, we have history buffs, Civil War buffs. We try to accommodate them. There are people older who are into foraging for nuts and mushrooms.

**BM:** Do you have a problem with people breaking the rules?

got obsessed with Paolillo's two work days. "It's like a seminal story about people who sneak into the famed boneyard at night, strip down naked, and take pictures of themselves. We also love the idea that the dead need protection from such behavior. So this week, Paolillo talked with still-living reporter Ben Muessig.

## Our McMahon and Barack

**T**hey served nothing but tap water, and he didn't get to ask his prepared questions. But the freshman Democrat from Brooklyn enjoyed his first official visit to the White House on Tuesday afternoon.

McMahon met with President Obama in the ceremonial East Room, along with 60 other freshman members of the newest New Democratic Caucus — to discuss the president's budget plan.

"I went away very impressed with his preparedness and the presentations by his staff," McMahon told The Brooklyn Paper as part of his weekly "McMahon on Line" call.

"The president described himself as a New Democrat and was talking about how we will grow the economy and small businesses in the short term, yet tackle the deficit in the longer term," McMahon said.

The Brooklyn freshman, who is in January and has already been named the whip of the freshman Democrats and submitted his first bill, brought readers of The Brooklyn Paper along for the 30-minute meeting with the president.

"First of all, it's such a great thrill to enter the White House from the 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue entrance," he said. "And the Room, I know from taking a White House tour, is where Teddy Roosevelt's kids used to ride ponies."

"We were all seated at a large square table," McMahon added. "The president stood up, and he sat down [with top adviser] David Axelrod, [Chief of Staff] Rahm Emanuel, [Senate adviser] Latia Summers and [legislative affairs director] Phil Shilero."

"The president's presentation was thoughtful and very knowledgeable about the facts in hand, and he was very responsive to my comment." But he also has a great, respectful humor with his staff. Summers looked very tired and the president noted it and then went to bed. "He's been working these last few weeks, and everyone laughed."

The first-term congressman said he hasn't found reason to oppose the president's tax bill. He's probably learning from the "experts," McMahon said.

Then again, McMahon did have two pointed questions ready for the president: they didn't get an answer.

"The real commercial real estate market is the next show to drop, so I wanted to know what they will do. And second, I wanted to know if the president would ever have time to have a bill in his office, but he hasn't had a bill in his office since he became president," McMahon said.

Second on the agenda was McMahon's ascension to his first leadership position: he's now one of all 35 Democratic congressional freshmen.

No, that doesn't give him the power of Congress. No one is stopping you. You walk down and drop it in."

"I respect the work he did when he was a council person, but he's honest, he's good, he's kind, he's smart, he's good," McMahon said.

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## Picture of the week!

Really! They asked us to print this!

*Brooklyn Paper*

Our friends in the City Council press office sent us this photo to highlight a new fundraising campaign for the cash-strapped Brooklyn Public Library — but we couldn't help but highlight something else.

But the photo does tell a great story:

Now, kidding aside, the Brooklyn Public Library's three-month "Support Our Shelves" initiative is about as worthy a cause as any in these tough times.

## DODGERS...

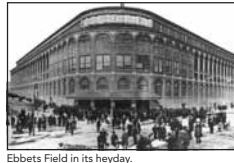
*Continued from page 1*

I don't see any reason to blanch him 100 percent.

But he didn't do favors either, said Tom Gilbert, a baseball historian.

"Baseball was mostly in the northeast, so they were all those attractive untapped markets out there in the south and west. This enabled baseball clubs to threaten to move unless cities gave them a stadium if they were sacking cities into giving them a franchise," Gilbert said.

Now, kidding aside, the Brooklyn Public Library's three-month "Support Our Shelves" initiative is about as worthy a cause as any in these tough times.



Ebbets Field in its heyday.

an arm's-length relationship with the team's birthplace. With the wound from the Dodgers' departure still fresh, the manager of O'Malley's bar was still enraging Brooklynites as recently as 1993 when he said a Bay Ridge bar called the Brooklyn Dodger "was the real thing," copy-right infringing. A judge threw out the case in

1993. Yeah, great, but where was that juror in 1957?

"Forever Blue" reading at the Brooklyn Historical Society (125 Franklin St.) on Saturday between Clinton Street and Monroe Heights (1819-22 Franklin St., between Market and Fourth) at 1 p.m. Free. Read an excerpt on SportsIllustrated.com

WORKS: It's needed to be developed. But the position on the Prospect Heights side needs change to the community.

**MM: With such comments, you could pick up a lot of votes for you.** I'm not sure why you say that.

**EEB: As a prospect, what do you think of him?** EBB: He's a good prospect. On the field, he's been a friend for years.

**MM: What about the son of the project?**

EEB: He's like having two children. You never know between them.

**MM: Sophie did.**

It's needed to be developed.

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Dodgers' departure still fresh,

the manager of O'Malley's bar was still enraging Brooklynites as recently as 1993

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**MM: With such**

**comments, you could pick**

## BRONX...

*Continued from page 1*

Fitter had two dependents that were not from the Bronx.

**MM: How do you get to work?**

EEB: I drive. On a good day it takes me 45 minutes to get to work.

**MM: So you're a driver.**

EEB: East River tolls are a hot-

button issue in every-

one in Brooklyn. What

do you think of that?

EEB: It's a concern, but not a

factor. The main, the MTA

needs revenue to maintain it,

so it's a concern.

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